FEEDBACK

THE STRANGE AFFAIR OF . . . .

In *The Strange Affair Of. . . .* (BBC 2) series, on Jan 14 Robert Sumes Investigated The Mayerling Tragedy, the subject of numerous books, plays and films.

In January 1889 the body of Crown Prince Rudolf, heir to the vast empire of Austria-Hungary, was found dead at his hunting lodge at Meyerling. He and the 17 year old Baroness Maria Vatsera had been shot.

It has long been established that he shot himself and his victim-lover. The unfortunate girl's body was taken in a half-sitting position in a carriage, supported by two relatives, and buried secretly. The Emperor tried to cover up the fact that hisson was not just a suicide but a murderer.

The only survivor of those days is ex-Empress Zita, now in her nineties, who was a child at the time. Her impression (gathered from conversations with her father the Emperor Franz-Josef) was that Rudolf was murdered on the orders of Georges Clemenceau. Clemenceau, she alleged, had inveigled Rudolf into a plot against the Kaiser which would have meant betraying his father, the Emperor; Rudolf boggled at that at the last minute, and Clemenceau had him killed.

Clemenceau (better known as the later WWI leader, became mayor of Paris in the 80s. He lived through the years of anarchist working class resistance and was one of those who suppressed it. He was heir to Thiers, who slaughtered thousands of workers after the Commune, which was only ended when the bourgeoisie got hit back.

He helped foster the long ongoing caricature of the anarchist as he raged at the Anarchists for 'attentatisme', though he admitted they 'were right — the poor have no country'.

It is interesting to reflect that he was capable of plotting against Heads of State himself. But the programme shows ex-Express Zita was wrong. Rudolf was not murdered. There is fairly definite proof that he *did* commit suitcide, as has always been generally assumed. But he might have been driven to it by black-mail. Nothing though excuses his murder of the 17 year old girl who was fascinated by him (as prey to snobbishness perhaps) though very many writers have endeavoured to protray this criminal deed in a romantic light.

After Mayerling his mother the Empress Elizabeth was assassinated by an anarchist, who regarded her as co-head of the imperial aristocracy guilty of countless mass murders. It may be argued that the Empress was a victim herself, married off compulsorily, and possibly also a lesbian who wandered around the country to escape from the court. Luccheni was not to to know that. He saw him as a representative of the genocidal Imperial crown. How he has been vilified by the chroniclers — the same ones, in many cases, who glorify or romanticise the criminal Rudolf! Luccheni had at heart the sufferings of the people: whatever Rudolf's motive for suicide, what reason did he have for killing the girl whose only crime was infatuation?

NAKED FACE OF FASCISM

ITV recently screened in four parts the Italian film *Christ Stopped At Eboli*, a brilliant rendering of the '30s classic by Carlo Levi. Like another novel of that period, Silone's *Fontamara*, it portrayed exactly Mussolini's Italy, and also the exasperated feeling of many Italians, in the homeland of anarchism, finding themselves trapped between Fascism and the so-called anti-Fascism of the Communist Party, between two totalitarian systems, with the knowledge that the only 'practical' alternative' Liberalism, was bankrupt and useless, and if it came back would serve the same interests as fascism.

It speaks the truth about facism which is far more chilling than the more frequent depiction of the Nazis and the holocaust, because the Nazis went to an extreme that seems unlikely to be repeated in the same way and is advocated only by drunken skin-heads, and even then under masks. Mussolini's fascism, before being drawn by the Duce's folly and greed under the Nazi leadership, was much more like the scenario achievable by British conservatism, and halfway there already.

Dr. Levi had finished his medical studies but was a dilettante painter with progressive views when he was sent for three years internal exile to God-forsaken Gagliano village beyond Eboli (where the saying was that Christ went no farther). He was spied on and even had to ask permission to keep a dog and could not walk beyond proscribed limits, (but there was a vast difference with 1943, when the Nazis seized Dr Levi, of Jewish origin, and sent him to a concentration camp).

Forbidden by the authorities to practise as a doctor, he did so and gained a well-deserved reputation among the peasants for his patience and kindless, and the fact that he knew a lot more about medicine than the local doctors who got their positions as part of the spoils going to the middle class. His experience among the superstitious, illiterate and deprived peasantry — but knowledgeabout enough in what concerned them — led him to realise how past conquests had reduced them to their miserable condition, and how the local mandarins all strove for offices over them to exploit them.

That is what Fascism was about, why it appealed to the ruling class and how it operated. It began with a populist appeal to the lower middle classes and the urban dispossessed, it erected a vast bureaucracy over the peasants, it dealt brutally street-fashion wise with the workers, imprisoned or killed off some agitators and dosed others with casbr oil, while it admonished the intellectuals, (but appreciated they were gentlefolk and money still counted). The fascist podesta always calls him respectfully 'don Carlo'. It may be said fascism did not create the 'problem' of this vast poverty-stricken South; but it preserved it and kept everything to the bone, always cutting down, always forcing the people to emigrate (get on their bikes!), bringing out the armed police in event of protest. Suddenly it had a brainwave to use the glamour of a foreign war to allay discontent and wave the flag (until it went too far and brought itself by its own verbosity into the world war and under the grip of Hitler). All this remind you of anything recent?

The film shows the gradual appreciation by Dr Levi of the role of the State, both in his arguments with the fascist podesta (who calls him 'a bit of an anarchist, eh?') and the Marxist intellectuals of Turin, when he later returns home under an amnesty. He tells them that, deprived even of the chance of protest, the only defence of the peasants was banditry (and even that turned against them). 'However you see the problem, the State — because it is the State — is the problem.' The solution is 'neither Fascism nor Liberalism nor Communism'. They protest that he is talking 'anarchy'.

WRITE TO BLACK FLAG AT
BM HURRICANE LONDON WC1N3XX

TORTURE

Anarchists are continually being accused of being little more than 'bomb throwing terrorists' by those in authority, those who would like to be in authority, the TV and the newspapers. In reality it is the State, no matter which country you may be living in, that is the real terrorist, with its daily use of torture, mental as well as physical, against opponents. Ironically, Anarchists are almost always the victims of terrorism rather than the perpertrators.

This programme started off badly with the ridiculous statement that 'at least 70 countries use torture', (try 700!!) and got worse from then onwards. According to this programme, torture was virtually non-existent in the whole of the western world! It was even justified against 'the scurge of terrorism' at several points in the programme. The fact that torture *is* blatant terrorism was conveniently ignored. Britain (surprise, surprise. . .) came out whiter than white although the truth nearly slipped out when an Iranian torture victim pointed out that the shackles which have deformed his feet irrevocably were Made in Britain. The fact that they still probably are Made in Britain was ignored as was the fact that Britain happily trades with the worst offenders of terrorism.

The programme concentrated mainly on interviewing the victims of torture, interviewing ex-torturers (all miraculously repentent!), detailing methods of torture and briefly looked at attempts to rehabilitate torture victims.

Predictably, there were no solutions at the end of the programme. It seems torture, for the programme makers, was something you frown upon, not something you do anything about.

The discussion shown after the programme didn't have much to offer in the way of solutions either. A panel of three academics and one ex-army general came to the inane conclusion that torture was bad, not because of any moral objections, but because the information obtained under torture was usually unreliable! The final thought of the programme was that torture would go on. We would agree as long as the lie that governments preserve peace is swallowed by the majority of people.

RECORD REVIEW

Let's Wreck The Party!

Let's Wreck The Party is a great album from a great band. DOA are a Vancouver punk band who believe in easy-to-understand lyrics and foot-stompin' rock 'n' roll. They also happen to be Anarchists and spread their ideas through music, reaching an audience which a paper like *Black Flag* would almost certainly not reach.

Tracks to look out for on the album include *Trial by Media* (about the Vancouver 5), *The Warrior Ain't No more* (about the demise of the Native Indian), *Race Riot* (an anti-KuKlux Klan song) and *General Strike*.

Like punk or loathe it, with a quote from Durruti on the inner-sleeve, these guys have gotta be all right.

Let's Wreck The Party is available from all good record stores or its local distributors: *Alternative Tentacles records, 61-71 Collier Street, London N1 9BE.*



No. 148

BLACK FLAG

30p

THE ANARCHIST FORTNIGHTLY

27-1-'86

ANARCHY FOR THE UK ?

The Northern Irish Protestants, Loyalists, Unionists, Orangemen — whatever you like to call them — have for years trusted to the Tories to protect their inbuilt bastion, and in return given loyal support. They have had some privileges given in return, such as preference in getting what jobs are available, though never going so far as prosperity under which the workers might get too much of the cake. Now they are learning the bitter truth about Toryism — that Tories are only loyal to themselves, and that they are super-patriotic when they are in power, or controlling the economy, but if they stand to lose financially, will sell out their own country, or own grandmothers.

After fourteen years of IRA action has made the province almost unprofitable — and in an area of great potential profit, which makes capitalists all the madder — the people who encouraged a defiant stance in the first place ('no surrender to terrorism') are selling out the Unionist majority; and even those who most want to see British troops out of Ireland don't disguise the fact that it *is* a sell-out. What reason has there been for fourteen years of bitterness, hatred, killings and maimings just to produce the result which Ulster people dreaded most and which was previously dismissed as the ravings of Paisley?

Without doubt it has been the actions of the IRA over the years that has produced this result: and while the Cabinet pontificates that 'violence never pays' (unless it's their own), it tacitly acknowledges that they have finally succumbed to the IRA. But ingeniously they apply the 'Kenya solution'. After years of fighting by the Mau Mau, the government decided to throw in the towel. But they weren't going to give a knock-out decision in favour of the resistance. They called in Jomo Kenyatta, who had been interned in case he did anything but in fact hadn't done anything. He thus got the best of both worlds — a reputation for being an imprisoned leader, and awarded the laurels of victory, without ever being in struggle.

Here the government proposes that the so-called Social Democratic and Labour Party — which has throughout disclaimed responsibility for anything that has happened in struggle, and also avoided anything of a social-democratic nature nor represented the working class (hence its name!) — should act as Dublin's voice in government, thus making the party which gets some 17 per cent of the votes one that gets parity in decision making.

Like all compromises this pleases no one. Neither the IRA nor most Republicans want Dublin rule anyway, let alone in half-measures. It is hoped that the ground will be cut away under their feet, but lack of support won't mean that military actions will go away. How could the IRA voluntarily disarm without giving up the ghost altogether? The conservative Unionists will move into the constitutional-inaction political-agitation seat vacated by the SDLP and the Paisleyites will move into the rebel seat vacated by the IRA.

The problem is one that has no solution because nationalism and capitalism create problems which have no answer. If these systems did not exist, people would think that they could not possibly work in practice.

The Paisleyites will now take over the left populist simplification that it is a struggle of the righteous against English tyranny. The Republicans will assume the mantle of the betrayed and beleaguered. And European capitalism will dig in as deep in Ulster as in the Republic provided all observe that noble patriotic aspiration Business As Usual.

Can we now consider the impossible, which is that the religious and national issues be dropped, and that workers — believing 'whatever they like as to what gives them the horrors' — start looking to a future without State, Capitalism or Church?



Ian 'Ding Dong' Paisley.

Greece

Athens Explodes



See Page 5

Mart Gets 18 Months

Mart Gerritson, a Dutch activist and squatter, is currently serving two nine month sentences (partly concurrently) in Camp-Hill Prison on the Isle of Wight. He still has a third charge outstanding, that of criminal damage (breaking a window) during the last Brixton riot, and he will come up for this in a few months at Knightsbridge Crown Court.

Mart was arrested about 1.00am, after the main rioting had subsided, and when the police were out to arrest anyone they could. However he was given bail the next day, when the police had to clear cells for new victims. Unfortunately a day later he was arrested outside Euston Barclay's Bank just after it had been smashed up and was covered in paint, in an anti-apartheid action. This time there was no escape; he was remanded first in Wormwood Scrubs and then in Brixton Prison. The police discovered that he had jumped bail on a Stop the City charge a year earlier. The Barclays case came up first.

Mart was unfortunately advised to plead guilty to breaking one window (value £400) when a forensic expert reported he had the same paint on his clothes, and the Prosecution agreed to reduce the damages from the original £6,000. But then the Magistrate sentenced him to nine months prison! For one window on a political charge! Mart was then sent back to Wormwood Scrubs.

The Stop the City charge actually happened on the night before the demo, when Mart and others were returning through the City from a Benefit concert in Camberwell South London. They were on bicycles on their way to Camden in North London. A policeman tried to do them for not having lights and was beaten up. Mart and another man were arrested. The other man got a £50 fine but Mart jumped bail and went home to the Netherlands. But, this time round he got another nine month sentence. Six months for Attempted Bodily Harm to the policeman (a strained muscle) and three months for skipping bail! Most of the other people caught skipping bail on Stop the City charges received £20 fines!

Mart is appealing sentence on both this and and Barclays charge, and he now wants the case to be seen as openly political. It is clear he has been scapegoated for many other people's 'crimes'.

Mart Gerritson needs our support.

You can write to him at *Mart Gerritson L42236, Camp Hill Prison Isle of Wight.* You may be able to send in papers and new books, but not food and tobacco. Don't expect an answer however, as he can only send three letters a week, and he has no money since he was fired from his prison job for offering a cup of tea to a liter. Money can not be sent in and cannot be used to buy stamps or envelopes; you can't send in any stamps either etc. etc. Send him a card!

Mart Gerritson Support Group c/o BM Hurricane London WC1 N 3XX

Support Action in Holland

On Friday January 3rd, a Barclays Bank was picketed in Amsterdam in protest at Apartheid profiteering and in support of Mart Gerritson.

BLACK FLAG – BLACK CROSS
BM HURRICANE, LONDON
WC1N 3XX
Published, typeset and layout
BLACK FLAG COLLECTIVE
Printed by Aldgate Press
SUBSCRIPTION RATES
12 months: £12 inland
£15 surface, £19 Air.
6 months: £6.50 inland
£8 surface, £10 Air.
PRISONERS: Free on request.
GIRO ACCOUNT No. BLACK FLAG
58 552 4009
GIRO ACCOUNT No. ANARCHIST
BLACK CROSS: 51 172 0009.

For the release of all political prisoners, the relief of class war victims and the overthrow of tyranny everywhere. Smash the State! Anarchy is freedom.

HOME NEWS

ROADS TO FREEDOM

The Bolton Workers Educational Association is running a series of talks and discussions on Libertarian thought and history. Commencing January 22nd at 7.00pm at the Great Moor Street Annexe, Great Great Moor Street, Bolton. £9 waged, and unwaged Free. Enrolment on first night but enquiries welcome. Tel: *42869/68513*

What Is Anarchism? Jan 22nd
Anarcho-Communism Jan 29th
Anarcho Syndicalism Feb 5th
Anarchism and Feminism Feb 12th
Discussion Evening Feb 19th.
Edward Carpenter, Bolton and the US Libertarian Movement Feb 26th.
Tom Mann's Syndicalism March 5th
Anarchist Collectives in the Spanish Revolution March 12th.
British Anarchism – History and Future Problems. March 19th.

Broadwater Farm Blues...

POLICE OCCUPATION & LIES

The Inquest into the death of Cynthia Jarrett, the black woman who died after police entered her house in Tottenham has not satisfied many people.

Since October 6th, 1985 thousands of police have been deployed on the Broadwater farm Esate; 200-400 occupy the Farm and surrounding areas; all roads to the Farm are subject to vehicles, patrolling officers, mobile command centres and incident rooms. Tangmere, the centre of the Farm which houses the youth association, shopping centre and neighbourhood offices is subject to constant patrols and surveillance. Outside cops controlled by Scotland Yard are used mostly.

So far 108 arrests, 62 charges, 29 let go and not charged, 10 released on bail, 5 in custody, 9 premises damaged (sledgehammers) and 61 premises searched. The confessions gained after sexist and racist abuse, strip searches, blood samples, lack of washing facilities are worthless it will be shown in Court. Officially the Police and Criminal Evidence Act is not yet in operation; despite this of course stop and search and detention of people without access to solicitors or parents (in the case of some juveniles over 36 hours) is now happening. Those arrested get dispersed making relatives access more difficult. Those on bail are put under a curfew and forbidden access to the N15 area.

A media story released by the police claims that locals planned the riot for up to 3 months previously, making petrol lakes in non-existent garages and petrol bombs etc. Ironically the same papers that published these lies described at the time how youths turned over cars, siphoned out petrol and made petrol bombs then and there. Playing up to the Tory Conference the following week and now the Law & Order scare-mongering Scotland Yard is launching a 'Swamp '81' in Brixton to be called 'Swamp '86'? Already there have been skirmishes between locals and the police in Brixton as we go to press.

WINSTON SILCOTT IS INNOCENT *OKAY!*

Winston Silcott, charged with the murder of PC Blakelock during the 1985 Tottenham riot is currently being held in Brixton jail. A Defence Committee of relatives and his friends have been trying to get him out of prison and to have the charges dropped.

On Saturday January 18th about forty five people picketed the prison from 10am for three - four hours. The picketers held a march around the prison, shouting out to those inside. A good response was made as prisoners yelled back and waved.

Further information from:
Winston Silcott Defence Campaign, 93 St. Annes Road, London N15.

News in Brief

PISSED COP DRIVES ANYWAY

Police Chief Superintendent Bert Sheldon who ran a 'don't drink and drive' media campaign over the holidays was seen out driving on the wrong side of the road at an on-coming car. He swerved and hit a Belisha beacon, finally trying to drive off although the vehicle was badly damaged and stuck on the beacon. As he was only two hundred yards from a Dorset police station he was pulled in and given a breath test showing he was three times over the legal drink limit. The £24,000 a year and index-linked pensioned Traffic Division head was given a 28 day gaol sentence suspended for two years.

Obviously he wasn't in the Masons or he would not have been up at all?

MINERS STRIKE

Bilston Glen, Scotland's largest pit and the neighbouring Monktonhall colliery stopped production as angry miners all walked out when they were told that the NCB would not re-employ four miners as recommended by an Industrial Tribunal. The four were National Union of Mineworkers organisers at the pits and had been active in the 1984/'85 strike.

APOLOGY

Due to circumstances beyond our control we are unable to publish a financial statement in this issue of *Black Flag*. It will appear in the next issue.

NEW YEAR TRICKS

The police station at Nailsea, a town five miles from Bristol was attacked by a crowd of over fifty people following the arrest of two people earlier. The front doors of the station were smashed up and a police car was overturned. Nine people were picked up and charged afterwards.

Army units backed up by Metropolitan Police occupied Heathrow airport on Jan. 1st. They set up roadblocks, checked on vehicles etc. Previously they left after the tourists, 'terrorists', and travellers had seen their nice clean tanks and armoured cars. This time though the Met liked it so much they decided to stay and got Heckler and Koch sub-machine guns for keeps to pose with (supposedly adapted for single shot use only). Not to be outdone, that thug in uniform, the self-confessed Chief of Police Anderton and his Manchester gang exposed their weapons too. Rumours that Motorways are soon to be patrolled by armed traffic police are said to be premature.

SCHOOLKIDS OPEN UP SECOND FRONT

Schoolchildren in the West Midlands have been taking advantage of the current long teachers dispute to cause trouble for cops.

It seems that mass playground fights have led to gangs of kids stoning the cops when they arrive on the scene. Extra police patrols were sent out after a series of stoning incidents, one of which resulted in a carpet shop in Hillfields, Coventry being set on fire.

Attacks have also been reported in Hamstead, Tipton, Kingstanding, Chelmsley Wood and Wolverhampton.

Animal Liberation Front

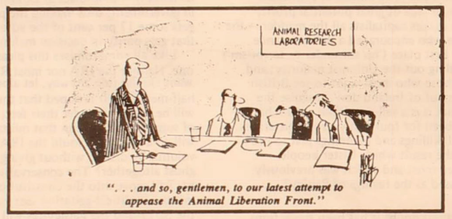
The Animal Liberation Front has extended the work of the Hunt Saboteurs and other militant groups, most of whom have come from the pacifist scene into the 'mixed economy' scene of the animal rights movement. Scotland Yard is getting worried. Up to now it has been investigating these activities through the Serious Crimes Branch. This Branch has been relying heavily on informers partly subsidised by the Hunt's rich followers, and partly by elderly ladies coming from the traditional animal defence movement – all concerned to save the RSPCA (the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) from embarrassment by 'extremists' – and also by fascist groups, traditionally well dug in to this movement and forever trying to turn it into a racial issue (on the subject of religious ritual slaughter ie. Halal butchery). The Serious Crimes Branch, which relies heavily on these groupings within the animal rights movement for its information, refers to them privately, derisively, as 'Hunt, Cunt and Front'.

The extended activities of the genuine hunt saboteurs and general animal liberationists have given such concern, however, that there is to be a special 'animal' squad, organised on a national basis by Superintendent David Little of the Criminal Intelligence Branch. This is recruited heavily from Special Branch, and will no longer rely for information solely on 'HCF'.

A phoney organisation has been set up to monitor the scene, a so-called Pacifist Anarchist Federation, avowedly to dissociate genuine 'pacifist anarchists' from the animal activists. Many 'animal libbers' describe themselves as anarchists and even though subscribing to Liberal-Anarchism have abandoned the liberals obsessive commitment to 'non-violence' at least as far as animals are concerned. It should hardly be necessary to point out that this phoney 'federation' has nothing to do with Anarchism as we know it.

Though disagreeing with the Liberalism of the animal activists, and their tendency to unite with human predators on humans while attacking human predators on animals, we wish their spirit and activism well and only would like it extended to areas where it can help change human society.

Source: A friendly neighbourhood typist.



". . . and so, gentlemen, to our latest attempt to appease the Animal Liberation Front."

QUESTION & ANSWER ON @ ANARCHISM

Q: Do you agree with Alexander Berkman when he said there were two kinds of Communism (Anarchist and Marxist) and two kinds of Anarchism (Individualist and Communist)?

A: This was so, more or less, sixty years ago when he wrote it, but the situation is not the same today.

He referred to Anarchist Communism (voluntary association) and State Communism (authoritarian control) but State Communism in power has further degenerated, as Anarchists always knew it would and there is a third 'communism', sometimes inaccurately described as State Capitalism but more exactly as State worship, domination by the party in power for a managing class.

Nobody could forsee rightwing 'libertarianism' talking about 'anarcho-capitalism' and claiming to be individualistic even only twenty years ago (it's an American invention). These are distinct from the 'Liberal-Anarchists' who have been around longer and whose shadow has always been cast on the libertarian scene. These might call themselves individualists but disagree with the 'anarcho-capitalists' but cherishing the same texts and origins (Tucker, etc); or they might call themselves Communists and cherish the same texts as and even parts of the history of Anarchism proper, or claim to be in the same movement, but they are not into present action or anything other than seeking a philosophy with a tradition about which they might enthuse or be cynical as if from within, but which they reject in action and to which they do not contribute. To justify this, they sometimes use the excuse of being 'pacifist' or 'non-violent'; sometimes not.

Anarchism proper – for want of a better clarification rejects both as imitations. We do not see a clear distinction nowadays between syndicalism, individualism and communism – anarchists into industrial action at all are bound to be syndicalistic (unless they believe in the theory of spontaneity – a sudden big bang revolution from nowhere); nor has there been anyone more individualistic than the anarcho-syndicalists of the American IWW and the Spanish CNT in their heyday; and what other description can there be of free collective society than communism? In Berkman's time, when the movement was entirely working-class, nobody thought of distinguishing communism in anarchism from syndicalism, this only arose with the Liberal Anarchists who wanted to separate themselves from active organisation.

There is only one Anarchism – which incorporates syndicalism, communism and individualism; or if we want to be charitable, perhaps we have to say there are three types of anarchism, two of which we reject as phoney . . . . . the Liberal Anarchism and right wing 'capitalist–anarchism'. The belief that all three, or two of them, are equally valid and in one 'movement' leads on to the often repeated stories of the cynical about 'disunity', the 'internal bickering' etc.

There are three Communisms certainly, free Anarchist-Communism, authoritarian State Communism, and Russian party State control which is scarcely a valid communism at all. But at least no-one except sometimes a young journalist in a wilder flight of fantasy compounded of ignorance and alcoholic indulgence –

would ever assert that ***these*** constitute one movement!

ANARCHY

Q: How do you stop a policeman from spitting at you?

A: Turn down the grill (on the stove).

Sauce: Poison Pen.

ANARCHIST BLACK CROSS

US Prisoners Launch Hunger Strike

Frustrated by deteriorating conditions, six locked-down prisoners at the Southern Ohio Correctional Facility launched a hunger strike on January first. The six are held in the prison's highest security area, most are locked in their cells for 24 hours a day, are prohibited from receiving publications, and are not allowed regular visitation or correspondence. They have announced their intention to fast until death unless their conditions are met.

The six are demanding the closing of strip cells; the establishment of recreation facilities and walk lines; an end to the use of gas, chemical mace and fire hoses on prisoners locked in their cells; the same rights as other prisoners under administrative control to food, personal property (such as books and radio), visitation and mail; the right to purchase comissary items such as tobacco, soap, coffee, etc.; establishment of regulations governing placement and release of prisoners in administrative control units; the transfer of a prisoner whose life they believe to be in danger from prison officials; and the investigation of the deaths of two prisoners at the hands of the prison guards.

They write: *We are not animals (and animals should not be treated like this too!) We are human beings!. . . We refuse to be intimidated or further humiliated. . . Death is preferable to a continued existence in this cruel and inhumane environment.*

They ask that readers write to, *Governor Celeste, Governor's Mansion, Columbus, Ohio 43215* and to: *Richard Seiter, Director, Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, 1050 Freeway North, Columbus 43229* asking them to afford Ohio's prisoners basic human rights, and to grant the above demands. Further information is available from: *Willie Price, No. 154269, Box 45699 Lucasville Ohio 45699 – 0001. USA*

SOURCE: Industrial Worker.

Michael Davies Gets Visits

They say there is no rest for the wicked and undoubtedly that includes subversives like members of the Direct Action Movement. On the 24th of December we got a letter from Doctor Chandra Ghosh and it confirmed that three named comrades had 'permission' to visit Michael as friends.

On the 25th of December two of us drove out to Park Lane to 'test' this 'permission'; we did this on the off-chance so that the actual visit by us was as close to the date of the lifting of the ban as possible and to show the authorities that we care about our comrades who are unnecessarily incarcerated at the behest of the state no matter what day of the year it is.

THERE WAS NO VISITING THAT DAY FOR MICHAEL BUT WE LEFT SOMETHING FOR HIM.

We did this in an effort to relay a message to Michael so he would know we had called up anyway.

We went up again the following day, the 26th, and spent about one a half hours with him, and we had a good bit of chat about how things have been with him and about activities in Liverpool.

The censorship is still continuing in many ways but basically he is still in good form about developments in general, as he has received letters of support through the good publicity in the anarchist press.

As well as the anarchists others like MIND and NCCL played a very good role in this campaign and to everyone who did help, the Liverpool DAM extends greetings of solidarity. Because without that support the struggle would have been extremely hard and much longer.

For us in Liverpool DAM, we most certainly became acquainted with what must be one of the most oppressive and dangerous parts of the state machine.

It is time for the anarchist network to turn the 'spotlight' fully upon these so-called hospitals and the methods used to put people in to them. As far as we are aware there are some 116,000 people in these hospitals and if we are not prepared to do something about them, then most certainly no one else will.

If any comrades are interested in this field of activity and have any facts, figures or information in general which would be helpful in this activity perhaps they could contact us.

An indication could also be given as to how far people are willing to go because unless we know people's commitment it will be hard to guage what we effectively can do.

So if you are interested enough to get involved please write to: *SOLACE, Anarchist Aid For Prisoners, c/o Box Liverpool DAM, 82 Lark Lane, Aigburth, Liverpool 17, England.*

Damned Lies And Statistics

The Government's scheme of building new prisons and transferring some prisoners to renovated old Army camps, has not stopped overcrowding in British prisons. The official Certified Normal Accodation [1] of some 40,499 in 120 'establishments' has been passed as there are 48,000 plus prisoners or 18% overcrowding as a 5% margin is needed for (funds allowing) redecoration, repairs etc. Small bare cells are often occupied for 23 hours a day. In comparison with the rest of Europe, Britain locks away more of its population, and for a longer time.

With time, new and old prisons change their 'rated capacities' as communal areas are converted into cells, cell walls removed to become dormitories. Officially 'normal' jails can in reality be more cramped, and have less privacy and facilities. Thus of the 120 prisons, 65 are operating within their 'rated capacity' (in reality overcrowded too).

Leeds, rated for 630, holds 1,378 at last count. People 'innocent until proved guilty' untried are thus packed into overcrowded prisons in some cases sleeping in the corridors. Priority to 'short, sharp, shock' youth custody and detention centres is currently shifting to maximum security dispersal prisons as the State gets ready for those who pass through the youth crime 'colleges' and advance into the prison 'universities'. 'Recidivism' the official term for those who commit more 'crimes' upon realease from prison is now running at 90%. Most 'crimes' are related to property and the prison/poverty cycle currently speeding up ensures the police, judges, prison officials and their related academics, civil servants, statisticians are at the heart of a 'sunrise industry' that has a secure future in Statism whether run by the Tories, Labour, SDP-Liberal or the 'extreme' left and right Parties.

1. Prison Act 1952 states all cells must be certified specifying the number of prisoners they may contain; yet there is no definition of minimum space nor time of confinement to the cell. . .

CORRESPONDENCE WANTED

We have received a request from a man held under Section 37 of the Mental Health Act who in the past had been active in Hastings anarchist and animal rights groups. He is trying to get out.

A young black lad broke out of this Showpiece new secure unit. . .it only got officially opened ten days ago, chortle. He smashed an 'unbreakable' window in the night. Got caught though.

He is appealing for release and in the meantime would like to hear from those who can correspond, send literature etc.

Tim Thompson, Bethlem Royal Hosp. Denis Hill Unit, Monks Orchard Rd. Beckenham, Kent, BR3 3BX.

News From Holland

SCHEVENINGEN RIOT

On January 6th, 1986 a prisoner who was arguing with Brigadier Bal, the A Wing guard officer of Scheveningen prison, was thrown over a balcony by the officer.

The prisoner broke his wrist and ankle from the fall, and the other A Wing prisoners out of their cells 'on association' took over the wing and smashed up all the communal area. The guards withdrew for an hour and returned when prisoners let them in after agreeing to suspend Brigadier Bal and that no reprisals would be made.

Two weeks later there have still been no reprisals by the guards.

Alan Reeve

Alan Reeve is currently serving fifteen years in Scheveningen Prison for shooting a Dutch policeman, in self-defence, in Amsterdam.

Alan Reeve spent twenty years in the Broadmoor Prison 'Hospital' where he was charged with murder. He escaped from there and from England to Holland where he was picked up after the shooting of the cop. Now another prisoner has claimed responsibility for the murder, thus Alan Reeve is appealing against extradition to Britain to face the murder and escape charges.

While in prison Alan Reeve wrote a book about his experiences and ideas for revolutionary change it is called *Notes From a Waiting Room* and is published by Heretic Books. @ Distribution is soon receiving some copies for those who want to read up on the Alan Reeves story.

Alan Reeve , Scheveningen Prison, Haag, Netherlands.

New Anarchist Publications

THE ANARCHIST ENCYCLOPAEDIA

The first folio is already out – *Civil War and Civil Peace - Libertarian Aragon 1936-1937* – and is being followed up by folios on self-management, and Bakunin on Education, in February. Some time toward the end of the month folders for the series will be sent to subscribers. The entire work which will take some years to complete, will attempt to reaffirm anarchism as a viable ideal and the only practical alternative to Marxist, liberal and conservative authoritarianism.

Subscription rates:
1 year (institutional) £25 ($50).
2 years (institutional) £45 ($90).
1 year (individual) £16 ($ 32).
Payment to *The Anarchist Encyclopaedia.*

The editors of *The Anarchist Encyclopaedia* are also organising a touring, free exhibition combining it with a travelling book fair, film shows etc as an introduction to the new venture. The show will go on the road in March. Details from: *Stuart Christie, BM/Refract, London WC1 3XX.*

Folios toward
The Anarchist Encyclopædia

OPEN ROAD

Another great Anarchist paper to reappear after a long absence is the Canadian *Open Road*. This issue (No. 18) contains twelve pages of solid Anarchist news and comment plus an eight page *Resistance* insert that gives details of recent communiques from the Belgian CCC, French Action Directe and West German RZ group. Price $1.50 c/o *Box 6135, Station G, Vancouver, B.C. Canada, V6R 4G5*

ANARCHY

Anarchy Magazine is back at last after an absence of over a year and it's good to see this well-presented, intelligent Anarchist magazine reappear again. We sadly lack a decent, regular Anarchist magazine in this country and we hope the next issue of *Anarchy* will be on the streets soon. The articles in this issue (no 38) include a well researched piece on police informer Joaquin Gambin (responsible for fire-bombing the Scala hall in Barcelona), exposes on the respectable fascist Robert Gayre and the not so respectable fascist Odfried Hepp, a hard look at the armed struggle in Western Europe plus book reviews and lots more.

Anarchy (price 90p) is avaialble at all good radical book stores or *c/o 84b Whitechapel High Street, London E1 7QX*

STRIKE

Strike, the paper dedicated to direct action is back too. This issue (December '85) highlights US Native Indian struggles, the resistance in Poland, Industrial unrest and lots more. Each issue of this paper is better than the last, although I wish they'd stop using Arthur Moyse articles. Price 75 cents. c/o *PO Box 284, Main Station, St Catherines, Ontario, Canada L2R 6T7*

THE MINERS NEXT STEP

by Noah Ablett and others.

A reprint of this pamphlet, originally published in Wales before WWI during the then syndicalist wave, is now available from *Cambridge DAM c/o Box DAM, Cambridge Free Press, 25 Gwydir Street, Cambridge.* Price is 60p. Bulk orders are welcome. All profits will go to the Shirebrook Colliery Banner Appeal Fund.

DIRECT ACTION

Direct Action No. 27. Paper of the Direct Action Movement. Industrial news from an Anarcho-syndicist perspective. Price 20p. Available from better street-sellers and bookshops or direct from: *Dept. D.A. PO Box 102, HULL*

Support the Anarchist Press

INTERNATIONAL

Greece

TIME FOR A COUP?

Greece's economic crisis, causing price increases and a rise in unemployment, is really beginning to hit people hard.

The 'Socialist' Government's response has been to outlaw wage increases, (very bloody Socialist!) provoking two general strikes and other smaller strikes in various branches of industry. The Government's desire to attract foreign investors has meant it is taking a more hard-line approach against workers within Greece. In fact any group that questions its Authority gets to meet the hard face of the State. Strike demonstrations have been broken up by the police.

In the face of such anti-worker tactics the Socialist controlled General Confederation of Workers trade union has split in two and twenty six of its leading members have disassociated themselves from PASOK (the ruling Socialist Party).

Meanwhile on the right, the conservative New Democracy Party has also split after the formation of a new conservative party, the Democratic Revival Party, by one of its former members.

With the right and the left in disarray, things look very worrying for people in Greece.

The threat of a military coup in Greece is now very real and would undoubtedly plunge the country into civil war if the army and its friends ever decide they want to take over.

Anarchist Activity

A 'Free Omori' Campaign has been launched by Greek comrades with a demonstration in January outside the Japanese Embassy in Athens.

We also hear that some English-speaking Anarchists are working on an information bulletin in English (also to appear in the French and Spanish languages too) with the aim of better explaining the situation in Greece to Anarchists in other countries.

NB. All thirty seven comrades who were arrested after occupying Athen's Polytechnic building in November in protest at the police murder of Anarchist Mihalis Kaltezas have been released on bail. Defence work has already cost Anarchists there around £3,500 on bails, leaflets etc. Any donations from Britain or elsewhere would be greatly appreciated. A Benefit at 121 Bookshop in South London raised some money which has been sent on already, but more would be useful!

SOURCE: Basil K.

Australia

INTERNAL PASSPORTS

In the early 1980's a number of Royal Commissions and Inquiries exposed massive tax fraud, tax evasion and tax minimalisation amongst Australia's rich and powerful. Judges, politicians, the police, union bureaucrats, prominent business people and a media magnate were all caught with their pants down (although of course few convictions resulted). Apparently they had become so accustomed to ripping off everyone else that they didn't cover their tracks carefully enough – either that or they just didn't believe it could really happen.

So to counteract all the bad publicity, in June of this year, under the guise of tax reform, the Government proposed to stop tax evasion and welfare fraud and to catch illegal immigrants. The card*, if it is introduced, may successfully stop single mothers having a job on the side while collecting an inadequate pension, or maybe stop a tradesperson from collecting cash in hand for weekend work, but they certainly will not stop the rich and powerful from manipulating the system to their own financial advantage.

Meanwhile, the card will effectively draw together all available information on every individual, which is currently held in a multitude of separate data bases of the authorities' computers. The card will be very handy for the police, the bureaucracy and the security police to effectively keep tabs on what the 'undesirables' are doing.

Hello computer bank, goodbye privacy.
Internal passports for all.

* A proposed national identity card.

The *People Against Identity Numbers* in Melbourne are interested in any information people have on the uses and abuses of similar sytems in other countries – how they were introduced, how they are used, how they can be resisted or subverted. Your information may help us stop the card. Please write to: *P.A.I.N. c/o CAPU 49 Peel Street, West Melbourne, 3003, AUSTRALIA*

ARGENTINA

ROCK ROCK ROCKEFELLER

American multi-millionaire David Rockefeller (a former President of Chase Manhattan bank, one of Argentina's top five commercial creditors) turned up to talk to Argentine political and economic leaders but faced a riot instead.

A demonstration by about two thousand people quickly turned into a riot as the police used water cannon and teargas to disperse the crowd. A car was set on fire outside the American Club where the banker was to have spoken. Protesters set fire to rubbish left on the streets due to a strike by municipal workers, overturned other cars, threw tacks onto the road to hamper pursuing police cars and vans, and attacked a news agency truck. The windows of the Sheraton Hotel, where Rockefeller was staying, were also smashed.

Eight people were taken to hospital, one in a serious condition after being hit by an exploding teargas grenade. Many cops were also hurt. This battle was the first serious riot since President Alfonsin took over in late 1983.

Rockefeller's visits have always sparked protests due to his close association with Jose Martinez de Hoz, the landowner who imposed capitalist policies as economic Minister during the first five years of the military regime after the coup in '76.

Stop The City Buenos Aires style.

Netherlands

INTERNATIONAL ANARCHIST MEETING – NETHERLANDS

From Thursday evening May 15, 1986 to Monday evening May 19th, 1986, an International Anarchist Meeting will take place in Appelscha (20 km from Assen) at the *Tot Vrijheidsbezinning (For Freedoms Contemplation)* camp, Aekingaweg 1a. Telephone: 05162 - 1878.

Apart from cultural activities (music theatre, etc) there will be presentations and discussion on four themes around the central idea of Anarchist Strategy and Cooperation:

– anarchism and feminism
– anarchism and antimilitarism
– anarchism and ecology
– anarchism and syndicalism

Anyone who thinks he/she can contribute to the cultural activities and/or one of the themes is asked to contact the organising committee:

Mike Alibi
Nieuwe Gracht 40, Utrecht, Netherlands

Financial support is always welcome on Giro no. 995566 for

Inter P.L.
Box 155, Heerenveen, Netherlands.

NB. Bring your own camping material.

Anarchists In Turkey

Since the founding of the Turkish Republic a left wing movement has appeared, which initially took on a Marxist orientation due to the influence of the Russian revolution. The founder of the Republic, 'Great Leader' Ataturk instituted totalitarian methods and was able to crush these movements (which were weak to begin with) through the use of repressive laws and massacres. In the Kurdish regions, thousands of Kurds were also massacred. Ataturk foresaw the danger represented by the Kurds, who were a separate people within the Ottoman Empire, and had always displayed a much more independent attitude towards the State than the Turks.

Since the nineteen sixties, a Marxist movement has reappeared in the working class and especially amongst the students. At the beginning of the seventies, the development of these groups was brought to a halt, and their members were arrested or massacred. The methods and approach of Che Guevara held a strong influence on these groups, and at the end of the seventies their successors adopted a similar orientation. During this period, Turkey gave the impression of being in a state of civil war, and at least five people were killed each day.

These methods were directed uniquely against the Marxist groups, which were primarily composed of students. When General Evren (which means 'universe' in Turkish) took power in 1980, declaring himself the second Ataturk, people did not speak out: this new dictatorship was accepted much too easily. For the Marxist groups, the problem had become one of self defence and survival, and they left for Europe or withdrew into the Kurdish area in Eastern Turkey. In spite of the ongoing torture and repression experienced at the hands of the military, the Kurds still welcome revolutionaries, and their hatred of the soldiers continues to grow. In 1982, when the referendum for the new constitution was held (the new constitution is worse than the preceding one), the military was out in force in order to oblige people to vote under penalty of torture.

The result was a 92% 'yes' vote in favour of the new constitution, and Evren became President of the Republic. We now have political parties, but the CP (Communist Party) of course remains outlawed, as well as freedom of the press. There is no real right to strike, considering that the boss's approval is required to call a strike.

Anarchist Activities

And what was our reaction to the suppression of these movements? We didn't stand around with our arms folded watching it all happen. We read and held discussions; we were searching, and attempting to explore new possibilities. It was clear that we had left behind Leninism, Stalinism and Trotskyism, and in our search for more radical solutions we also left behind Marx. We rejected state-orientated organisations, and were against the theory of bringing 'consciousness' to the working class from the exterior. On these questions our position differed from that of other revolutionary groups. Finally we declared ourselves libertarians (up to this point, to call someone an 'anarchist' had been an insult). We remained in Turkey and read Sorel, Bakunin, Kropotkin, Proudhon and the major anarchist theoreticians, books which have not been translated into Turkish. There is now a publishing house, and Sorel's *Critical Approaches to Marxism* is in print, as well as Orwell's *The Lion and the Unicorn*, and we have also translated *The Kronstadt Commune* by Ida Mett.

As well, the Istanbul anarchists have made their presence felt during demonstrations, for example using the slogan *'vive la liberte'*, which may appear superficial in France, but in Turkey takes on a radical and innovative character because up to this point freedom had always been attached to a specific cause (freedom of the press for example). They are also proposing new forms of intervention in the workers' movement, suggesting that it should not situate itself strictly within a legal framework, which would imply recognition of state power.

In conclusion we would like to develop international contacts, in order to assist us towards a more efficient approach, and to profit from other examples of libertarian practice.

Ayse.

Letters and financial contributions will be forwarded by writing to: *IRL c/o ACLR, 13 rue Pierre Blanc, 69001 Lyon France.*

Translated from *IRL no. 65* by M.W.

NB. A Turkish anarcho-syndicalist group - in exile - has contacted the International Workers Association; we look forward to publicising their ideas and actions as they come to hand.

News in Brief

WEST GERMANY

RACIST MURDER IN HAMBURG

On Saturday 22nd of December, 1985 a young Turkish man was murdered by thirty skinheads in Hamburg. It happened when he was standing at a busstop with two other Turks. His name was Ramazan Avec.

WACKERSDORF

The West German Government has begun clearing the site for a new Nuclear Reprocessing plant at Wackersdorf in the conservative south of Germany.

Resistane has been strong. So far there have been three major evictions of camps and tree houses from the forest site and by the 7th of January some 1,037 people had been arrested. A police helicopter was sent away after flares scared the pilot.

The third eviction began on January 7 when 1,000 people were dragged off by 2,000 police and a hundred more people were arrested.

Building machinery of the main contractors has been sabotaged all over Germany, and one bulldozer was hi-jacked and used to destroy other machinery.

At one stage there were 30,000 demonstrators at the site.

NETHERLANDS

ARSON AGAINST APARTHEID

A Mercedes office was firebombed by a group called Agit in Zwolle, Holland in an anti-apartheid attack. Mercedes is one of the major pillars of South African Apartheid. It's also a big arms manufacturer manufacturer. The action was on 23/12-'85.

EAT THE RICH

On Xmas eve in Utrecht, two luxury restaurants were looted of veggy food for thirty people. The menu was mainly meat, and this was mixed with paint and ammonia to make it uneatable. Parts of the gas stoves were also stolen.

Apparently the poisoned meat was still served up that same evening! The action was in support of the poor, animals and the South African boycott. One of the hotels, Golden Tulip, is also a big supporter of South Africa.

SOUTH AFRICA

20,000 PLATINUM MINERS SACKED

On January 6th, 1986 20,000 black miners were sacked. They had been engaged in a series of 'wildcat' strikes at three platinum mines near Johannesburg. This is South Africas largest ever mass sacking. The mines produce about 90% of the west's platinum.

EL SALVADOR

Radio Venceremos

Radio Venceremos, run by anti-Government rebels in El Salvador has asked listeners to send in possible target suggestions for attack and sabotage. Listeners were also warned to use pseudonyms when writing to a box number in Mexico City.

Subscribe to B.F.!

INTERNATIONAL - EXTRA

A REPORT ON EVENTS IN GREECE

On Sunday the 17th of November, the annual commemoration march for the 'November 1973 insurrection' took place in Athens, Greece. Despite the numerous police forces, the anarchists who participated in the demo, managed to break the windows of the South African Airways offices and the restaurant of the high-class luxurious hotel Hilton.

After the end of the march special anti-riot police troops chased groups of anarchists to Exarchia Square, which is the traditional 'anarchist stronghold' in Athens. Four police vans that passed through the square were attacked by the people gathered there. Late at night some cops that appeared in the square were chased back to a police van in a nearby street. A petrol bomb was thrown against the van. Just as the group of anarchists was retreating back to the square, a cop, Athanasios Melistas, took out his gun, shot and murdered in cold blood the fifteen year old anarchist Michalis Kaltezas. It was a quarter to twelve on the 17th of November, on the same day that the military junta, 12 years before, had begun its final suppression of the 1973 insurrection.

Michalis Kaltezas was, since May '85, a member of Anarchist Attack Groups which have repeatedly organised Molotov cocktail attacks against police and burned many police cars. Some sixty enraged anarchists and libertarians, when informed of the murder, squatted the University of Chemistry[1]. They organised their defence against the heavy police forces that encircled the building and attempted an unsuccessful attack. Sporadic clashes with petrol-bombs and stones were taking place all night long. At 10.20 in the morning of the 18th of November special military troops (parachutists) using fire-escape ladders, with guns in their hands, and bombarding the squatters with tear and suffocating gases managed to invade the building from the roof, while the MAT (anti-riot police) and the MEA (plain-clothes police gangs) attacked from all sides. The thirty seven comrades that were arrested were brutally beaten during the invasion as well as their transportation and detention in the police headquarters. Another group of twenty squatters managed to escape through the sewers of the building.

As the news of the murder became widely known, hundreds of people started to gather in the area between Exarchia Square and the Polytechnic School (that was the centre of the 1973 insurrection). Groups of comrades were stopping the buses and painting them with slogans like *Michalis Kaltezas, 15 years old murdered, Cops, Pigs, Assassins, Revenge, This night belongs to Michalis, The social war has started, The blood is flowing, demanding revenge. etc.* Those buses were ordered to withdraw to the stations because of police fear that they would upset the Athenian population. Nevertheless, this plan did not work out, because of the traffic jam caused by the demonstrations in the centre of Athens.

Outside of the Polytechnic School more and more people were gathering and discussing the murder and the invasion of the Chemistry School. Many of them as well as passers-by were visiting the spot on the pavement where Michalis had been shot. A black flag was hanging from the tree beside.

Meanwhile a demo had been called for 5 o'clock, by the 'committee against state repression' which was composed of Leftist organisations. At 5 o'clock thousands of enraged people stood outside the Polytechnic building. The leftist 'committee announced that that they would squat the buildings and called for a discussion. The anarchists protested and shouted that a demo should be made at once. A group of them walked on shouting slogans and after a while a very big and dynamic demonstration had started. The main slogans were: *Cops, Pigs Assassins, This night belongs to Michalis, One Bullet for every cop, Violence against State's violence, Homage to Christos Tsoutsouvis[2], Neither fascism, nor democracy, down with statism, long live anarchy, Freedom for the squatters of the Chemical School* etc. The demo broke the windows of almost all the banks that were on its way and set them on fire with molotov cocktails, while the following slogan was shouted: *That's how we pay homage to Michalis.* Just before the demonstrators reached the police head-quarters they were attacked and dispersed by the special anti-riot forces. Most of them managed to return to the Polytechnic building. At about 7 o'-clock barricades were set up while MAT, MEA, members of fascist parties together with members of the governmental socialist party started their attack against the demonstrators. Not only the anarchists and a few leftists participated in those clashes but also hundreds of oppressed youngsters, working people, students and unemployed.



Anarchist takes a breather during riots in Athens

Molotov bombs, stones (flag-stones of the pavements), wooden stakes and metal poles were used during the clashes while many banks and big stores were destroyed. The Polytechnic School was the base of the rioters, who needed medical care since the wounded were already numerous. When the police and civil forces of-repression understood that their repeated attacks could not bring any result since the rioters defended themselves very effectively, they used the fire engines. However, neither was this weapon of any use to them. Many times they managed to reach outside the Polytechnic School protected by the fire-engines, but the rioters obliged them to retreat. At about 3 o'clock after midnight a general attack was launched with tear and suffocating gases (some of which are prohibited by the International Laws for chemical warfare). Many of the rioters managed to get inside the Polytechnic School which was being bombarded with gases from all sides. At 4 o' clock a group of MEA, fascists and socialists managed to break in the University but they were thrown out by the squatters. Until 10 o' clock in the morning the buildings were being 'stoned' by the fascists and the MEA. The squatters resisted despite their heavy losses (about one hundred and seventy people were wounded).

The squat of the Polytechnic was ended because of the treacherous manipulations of the leftists. While the clashes with the police forces were taking place in the streets the politicians of the marxist-leninist parties had reserved for themselves a cosy shelter inside the buildings, where they had formed a non-elected 'committee of the squat'; this 'committee' was in constant negotiation with the government and tried to end the riots either by calling the rioters to go in the squat or by attempting unsuccessfully to close the doors. When in the General Assembly, on Tuesday, the question of whether the squat should go on was being discussed, this 'committee' had already agreed with the government to end it. At the same time they managed to panic all those people that had not already been depressed by the caricature that the leftists had made out of the squat. The anarchists insisted that the squat should go on but it was very hard for them to do it by themselves (many wounded anarchists, few people eager to stay in the squat etc). We cannot but admit that the anarchists made serious mistakes during the events; unfortunately, we reserved for ourselves only the barricades at the time when our active presence was also needed inside the squat, in order to prevent the leftists from acting as they did. Although we should learn from our mistakes we should not get depressed since what will eventually stay alive from those events is not the treacherous game of the ultra-left but the triumph of the barricades; the thousands of youngsters who replied convincingly to the murder of Michaelis, erecting barricades, burning the banks, the big stores and the commodities, clashing with the MAT, the MEA, the fascists and the 'socialists'. Through their acts those rebels paid homage to the memory of Michalis (in the way he would have wanted) and expressed their opinion about the use-valve of this prison-like society (to be destroyed in flames).



Michalis Kaltazas

In many cities in Greece, squatting, rioting and demonstrations took place as well. On the following days the 37 comrades that had been arrested from the Chemical School squat were brought before the examining magistrate. They were charged with heavy accusations, 21 of them were set free paying 50.000 drachmas each and with the obligation of going to the police station twice a month. 16 squatters were jailed until protests by themselves and their friends finally got them released. The assassin cop Melistas was set free without the imposition of any restricting terms.

On Tuesday 26 November, a march was organised by the 'Libertarian Committee for Solidarity and Information'. Although we have announced that the demo was to be self-defending, the police at first declared that it was prohibited. At the same time tremendous police forces had surrounded the place from where the march was to start, with the intention of terrifying and preventing the people's participation in the demo. However the prohibition was withdrawn when the police became aware that the demonstrators were firm on their decision to make the march regardless of the police permission or prohibition. Thus, a big march which was purely anarchistic in its organisation, character and slogans took place. The up to four thousand who demonstrated made a sit-in outside the Parliament denouncing the assassination of Michalis and demanding the liberation of the imprisoned squatters. The main slogans were the following:

You talk about broken windows,
we talk about lives.
These nights belong to Michalis.
Freedom for the Imprisoned Revolutionaries.
Violence against State violence.
Homage to Christos Tsoutsouvis.
In these streets, in this society, some day the Revolution will not be Utopic.
With barricades we pay homage to our dead comrades.
Cops, Pigs, Assassins.
Death to the Masters Right or Left.

At 10 o'clock of the same day a car loaded with explosives exploded at the moment when a police van carrying anti-riot cops (MAT) was passing by. One cop was killed while several others were seriously wounded. Although the Marxist-Leninist urban-guerrilla organisation '17th of November' claimed responsibility for the act, the cops established a regime of terror against the anarchists. Many anarchists were arrested and interrogated by the police; houses were searched; persons that 'look different' and had the bad luck of passing by a police van were beaten up by the enraged cops. The centre of Athens had been occupied by police vans with MAT. The witch-hunt of anarchists had begun.

One of the imprisoned squatters went on hunger strike, nearly to death on November 18th and came to be released due to this fast and solidarity actions by his friends outside.

DOWN WITH THE ASSASSINS OF THE STATE
DOWN WITH THE STATE AND CAPITAL
FOR ANARCHY AND COMMUNISM

Libertarian Committee for Solidarity and Information, Diethnis Bibliothiki, 2Delfon & Didotou, Athens 44
Telephone: 3608635
GREECE

1. The Chemistry School was squatted before (9th - 14th of May) after the prohibition of an anarchist demo against 'State repression'. The occupation was accompanied by riots and some violent clashes with the enormous police forces. Despite the huge State terrorism the occupation went on and its demands concerning the liberation of the arrested anarchists was accepted by the Government. The squat was dissolved victoriously when a huge demonstration (5,000 people) passed by the Chemical School giving thus a safe refuge for the squatters.

2. Christos Tsoutsouvis was a member of 'Anti-State struggle'; he was murdered in May during an armed confrontation of his group with the police. Three cops were killed. The 'Anti-State struggle' had murdered the Prosecutor of Athens District Attorney Theophanopoulos.

COMMENT

Occupied South Africa

COSATU THE SUPER FEDERATION

During the 1960's the South African economy was booming, the African National Congress (ANC) had been banned and the leadership of the South African Congress of Trade Unions (SACTU – the ANC's industrial wing) had been driven into exile.

The destruction of working class power was reflected in the number of black workers on strike which had fallen to 1.705 throughout 1968 compared with 9,479 in 1955 which was the year when SACTU was formed. By 1969 only 3% of the industrial workforce consisted of unionised black workers. Against this background the policy of the ANC and its ally the South African Communist Party (SACP) gained credibility. They argued for a multi-class national liberation front against apartheid, and the primacy of armed guerrilla warfare over other forms of struggle. However the industrial boom also proletarianised many rural blacks, drawing them into manufacturing industry and into the cities so that when the world recession hit South African capitalism, the first sign of change was the Durban strike wave in 1973 when 100,000 black workers struck for higher wages. This heralded a rapid growth in the independent trade unions as opposed to the whites-only South African Confederation of Labour (SACOL) and the reactionary Trade Union Council of South Africa (the TUCSA).

The new unions have proved that the black working class is the *most important force for change* in Southern Africa. They have forced the South African State to recognise their legal right to unionise independently. What is more they have organised independently of ANC and SACTU who still believe that the vanguard of the struggle lies in the exile-based organisations together with international diplomatic pressure.

COSATU Founded

Thus the formation of the Congress of South African Trade Unions on December 2nd 1985 marks an important new development in the struggle. A combination of the superexploitation of black workers, the brutalities of the apartheid system and naked State repression has forced the unions to adopt a militant posture. However the important political arguments within the unions which impeded 'unity' also indicated that a trade union bureaucracy is developing and that the integration of the unions into the State apparatus through the State sponsored 'Industrial Councils' is also possible. Furthermore despite the fact that the ANC has been outflanked both by the recent wave of rioting in the townships and by the upsurge in working class activity, the ANC still enjoys support amongst blacks not to mention the slavish adoration of White western liberals in general and the British Anti-Apartheid Movement in particular. This is why ANC leader Oliver Tambo can receive a tremendous reception at Labour Party Conference and Anti-Apartheid rallies yet a representative of the Metal and Allied Workers Union (MAWU) who recently visited Britain commented:

British workers were genuinely surprised that black workers have organised into independent unions and have been capable of surviving the apartheid state.

So what does COSATU represent, what are the prospects for South African Labour in the future and how does that relate to anti-apartheid campaigns in the west?

COSATU brings together 34 'non-racial' trade unions which represent nearly 500, 000 workers. The principle of non-racialism means that the black-consciousness inspired Council of Unions in South Africa (CUSA) and the Azanian Confederation of Trade Unions(AZACTU) which insist on black leadership are excluded. The major power in the 'superfed' is the Federation of South African Trade Unions (FOSATU), which is organised on an industrial basis and insists the working class issues and building a shop floor organisation must come first. Secondly there is the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) which claims to have over 200, 000 members and which used to be affiliated to CUSA but has since accepted non-racialism. The final group of unions are the 'community unions' which are organised on a general rather than industrial basis and which campaign on wider political issues like the 'Bantustan policy' and the Pass Laws. These unions want unwaged proletarians to become involved in the struggle so they utilise consumer boycott campaigns, and are also affiliated to the multi-class United Democratic Front. They include the General Workers Union (GWU) and the South African Allied Workers Union (SAAWU).

SAAWU has been the most confrontational union and has been against registration under the Labour Relations Amendment Act and also participation in the 'Industrial Councils'. SAAWU has born the brunt of State repression and presently four of its leaders are awaiting trial for high treason. The slogan 'Free Mandela' is common currency amongst British leftists but the harassment of Thomazile Gqweta, SAAWU's president, has gone unnoticed. He has been detained time and again, he has been tortured in detention, his mother uncle and girlfriend have been murdered in the State's attempt to crush the union, and has now the ordeal of a possible death sentence in relation to the treason charge (for 'economic sabotage').

COSATU's Future

The coming together of these different tendencies in COSATU has inevitably involved compromise on important issues for the sake of unity. The issue of 'registration' is less important now because the legislation was originally designed to exclude migrant labour and non-racial unions but individual companies were willing to recognise non-racial unions and emendments in the law have allowed them to register. However the issue of 'Industrial Councils' has posed the problem of bureaucratic integration into the State. These 'councils' are a system of bargaining structures of which the Media Workers Association (MWASA) warned in 1982:

It takes the struggle out of the hands of the workers and into the heads of union officials. It takes the struggle away from the factory floor to the boardrooms of management. (International Labour Reports Nov-Dec 1985).

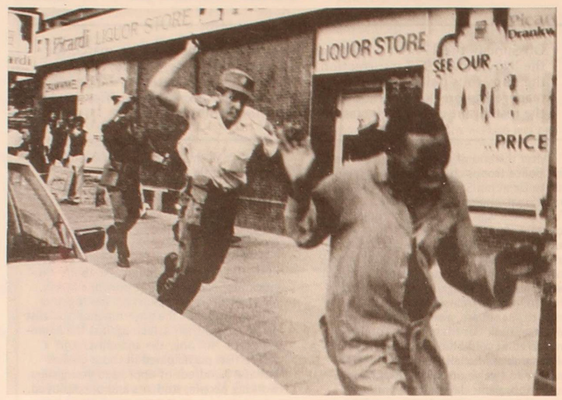
Two FOSATU unions, MAWU (Metal and Allied Workers Union) and the National Automobile and Allied Workers Union (NAAWU) have been willing to participate in the councils. Moreover liberal South African capitalists would welcome the creation of a trade union bureaucracy so that negotaion can replace class struggle. However the recent escalation in class violence, often directed at black collaborators such as policemen and councillors, the increase in State terror together with an unstable economic situation and the growing influence of right-wing Afrikaner groups like the AWB (Afrikaner Resistance Movement) will prevent complete assimilation of the unions.

The relationship of COSATU to the nationalist multi-class organisations of the ANC and UDF is also unclear. While the UDF unions will have some influence, many union militants want:

to ensure that the popular movement is not hijacked by elements who will in the end have no option but to turn against their worker supporters. (Joe Foster, the General Secretary of FOSATU. 1982).

International solidarity is another important issue due to the reliance of the South African economy on Western capital as well as the dominance of the obsolete ANC/SACP ideology of national liberation within the western anti-apartheid movements. The armed guerrilla campaign of Umkhonto weSizwe (the ANC's military wing Spear of the Nation) is little more than tokenism when you consider that the South African State is much more powerful than the Third World regimes which have been overthrown by peasant based liberation armies. The terrorism of exile-based guerrilla cells is no substitute for mass strikes and armed working class insurrection. Similarly the moralistic appeals for Government sanctions are no substitute for industrial direct action by western dockers such as the refusal by Southampton dockers last August to handle machinery bound for military use in South Africa. Real internationalism does not mean bureaucrats making some symbolic gestures of solidarity and this is why the movement which created COSATU has raised the question of working class power after years of nationalist mystification.

Duleep Allirajah
Canterbury DAM-IWA



South African riot cops chase demonstrator after Benjamin Moloise was hanged and relatives and friends held a memorial service in central Johannesburg.

HAITI - TOO MUCH PRESSURE

Haiti is a republic of the West Indies with a population of six million people mainly Black descended from slaves brought from Africa who speak French or a Creole dialect.

The Spanish ceded possession in the 17th century to French sugar planters. The land saw many rebellions and finally an uprising with military strategy led to independence in 1804. Haiti thus became the first successful slave revolt and the first black republic in modern times.

The economy centred on commercial crops which today include coffee, sugar, sisal (for baskets, rope etc.) timber and bauxite for aluminium.

Underground resistance movements continued through the centuries. This century saw the labour organisations oppose the occupation of the country by United States Marines (1915-34) and the dictators Stenio Vincent (1930's) and Elie Lescot (1941-46). Under President Estime (1946-50) the Federation of Haitian Workers (FTH) was set up with the affiliation of 51 unions. Strong organisation existed amongst port, transport and manufacturing workers of the capital, Port-au-Prince. Also the National Union of Workers (UNT) organised sugar, white collar and some industrial workers. In 1948 there were 153 unions in the country, most of these in the capital. A rudimentary social security system began to emerge but the dictatorship of Paul Magloire (1950-56) put a brake on union mergers which had set up the General Confederation of Labour in 1950.

In 1957 'Papa Doc' Duvalier came to power, and although unions were allowed to exist, all officials were in the pay of the employers or the government and strikes were outlawed. For twenty years until his death in 1971 no trade union activity took place.

Duvalier's son Jean Claude (the present dictator) inherited State power and at first tried to promote a less repressive image. When workers began to organise he quickly repressed their reemergence. In May 1976, the first strike for many years, in the cement industry, was violently put down. A journalist was even assassinated for reporting on the strike!

In 1977 demands for independent organisation, with delegates elected by workers not the bosses were made public and the sugarmill, cement and some mining workers came out in combat. Peasants demonstrated in front of the National Palace and the US owned Hasco sugar mill workers went on strike. In 1978 they repeated this action, demanding an 80% wage rise, which they lost, but soon after cement workers got a 16% wage rise after industrial action.

Braceros

Haiti is one of the ten poorest countries in the world although the Duvalier family is worth several hundred million dollars.

Each year ten to fifteen thousand workers are sold (like slaves) to the Dominican Republic for work on the sugar estates just over the border. Faced with starvation at home these 'baceros' cross the border to get pittance 'wages'. High unemployment amongst Dominicans can be ignored by the bosses as the Haitians are the cheapest. The Duvalier regime takes a fee for each worker 'exported' for the harvest; in 1979 at 80 dollars a head, the Haitian government received approx. 1.4 million dollars for 'braceros'.

The great majority of Haiti workers are landless rural labourers who until recently had little or no organisation. No federations exist with limited rank and file acts at plant level breaking out. Unemployment runs at 70% and there is no welfare, so if able, many try to escape the country by open boat across the sea to Florida in the USA where the authorities have an agreement to hand them back to the Haitian government. Most people are illiterate, rarely living beyond fifty years of age.

Barely a fifth of Haiti's people have running water and the poor ogle the four fountains which spring to life at dusk in a handsome new park in Port-au-Prince. The authorities have kept the park closed since it was completed some six months ago, fearing 'misuse' – or rather use – of the water.

Continued next issue.

COMMENT

France

FRENCH EMPLOYERS CAN AFFORD TO SAY: *MERRY XMAS*

There's a celebration at Brouguiant Palace. French 'securities' have increased 17% in a month. On November 22nd, opening day at the Stock-Exchange, they increased 3%. The stock-broker's index has gone up to 246 from 100 points on December 31, '81 – an increase of about 150%!

Although the sliding wage scale for workers is over, the lift in the stock-exchange has also benefitted some others. As the French newspaper *Le Monde* says: 'The stock-exchange has never been as good as under the reign of the rose.' (Symbol of the French Socialist Party). Among the companies that have benefitted most are: Total (oil company), Carrefour (supermarkets), Pernod, C.S.F. & Michelin; Renault-Participation is going well too (Isn't it strange therefore that this company has just announced losses of several billion francs? !) and so is Schneider, related to the Creusot-Loire Company which closed down some time ago and left a lot of workers redundant and in misery!

A lot of foreign investors have put their money into Stocks and Shares too, showing confidence in the future of France's economy.

Over the last four years the left-wing has succeeded in doing something the right-wing wouldn't dare do. As the National Institute of Statistics says: 'The wages policy and its effects on families (a drop in consumption) has been the main reason for the economic recovery. During the same year productivity increased by more than 5% as a result of the 'adjustment' in the number of people working in the production area.' (ie. 419,000 workers have been sacked!)

Flexibility: Delebarre's Game.

The Government's contribution to these end of the year festivities has been its project, submitted for approval to parliament, to allow for a 'mastered evolution of the machinery of working time'.

The plan has left employers unhappy, allowing Delebarre to claim: 'You see, your employers aren't satisfied. Therefore my project is good for the workers...'

Gattaz, who represents France's employers, would have liked to see negotiations by companies and not by branches of industry, and he disapproves of the fact that authorised overtime has dropped down from 130 to 80 hours. At the same time, the duration of a working week went from 42 hours to 44 hours, if the 'average week' equals 37½ hours over one year!

Who said that the Socialist Party is humanist? Less workers and less wages: That, at least, is a good attraction for investors!

SOURCE: Le Monde Libertaire.



CORRECTION

In the article which appeared in the 19th December issue [1], information which we received led us to indicate that both of the Belgian militants who were arrested during the enquiry surrounding the Cellules Communistes Combattantes (CCC) are anarchists.

Our Belgian correspondents have asked us to clarify that only Chantal Paternostre is a member of the libertarian movement, whereas Jean-Louis Carpentier is in effect in the Maoist milieu.

Nevertheless, in both cases their situation remains one of having been framed up for alleged participation in the CCC because of their opinions and previous activities.

International Relations Committee of the Federation Anarchiste.

1. Of Le Monde Libertaire, which was translated in Black Flag No. 147.

Translated from Le Monde Libertaire No 601 by M.W.

US Sponsored Terrorism (cont. from last issue)

Organisations such as CORU, the MNC, Alpha 66 and people such as Orlando Bosch, Robert Vesco and Mitch Werbell – names of mercenary agents and cover organisations that hit the limelight and then apparently fade into obscurity. Some of the people may well be different, but the organisations are basically the same, having the same objectives and using the same tactics. The story hasn't changed.

NB. The pro-cease fire faction leaders of Misura (the Misquito 'contras') have been eliminated; one person in question died in 'mysterious circumstances', another has 'disappeared'. Soon after, the pro-war faction won Misura approval to amalgamate its five thousand strong guerrilla army with the main Nicaraguan Opposition Alliance, the new Contra umbrella grouping. Misura is soon to receive the first installment of a $9m aid package from the US Congress.

Brooklyn Rivera, another leader of the Misura peace faction, known as Misurata, was prevented, together with several of his associates, from attending the Misura conference by the Honduran authorities. This conference decided to formally join with the NOA. The majority of the Misquito indians are Rivera supporters and inevitably will become the victims of the war their hard line, CIA-led faction warmongers are seeking to intensify. The US needs to exacerbate the friction between the indigenous Misquitos and the ruling Sandinistas, so as to justify the accusation that the Sandinistas are 'undemocratic' and are facing massive rebellion from within. The ousting of the conciliatory Misura faction also comes at a time when the Nicaraguan government are implementing a programme of compensation for the Misquitos in respect of previous injustices.

Suggested reading: *The Great Heroin Coup*, by Henrik Kruger.

Book Review

And Yet It Moves: The realization & Suppression of Science & Technology by Boy Igor. Distributed in the UK by @ Distribution, *c/o 84b Whitechapel High Street. London E1.*

This is an interesting, yet intensely annoying book about science, technology and proletarian revolution. Interesting because the subject itself is interesting, possibly the most important issue of the present time. Annoying because its typical of so many situationist critiques around.

Separating style and content for the moment, the book mainly consists of a cursory history of science, a look at 'proletarian' science in the 'proletarian' state, a look at the philosophies of science and some good chunks of argument. Considering the importance of the subject, the dearth of coherent libertarian, especially syndicalist, approaches and alternatives is dying to be rectified. We can't afford to let the subject remain the province of a few academics or experts, 'Left' or 'Right'. The old excuse that I don't know enough about the subject' is not only lame, its dangerous. How many of us are experts in high finance? Not many, yet we have clear and logical views on the subject. If you don't know enough, learn. Ignorance is no excuse.

The book goes in for a general look at science, technology presumably being considered science in action. The thorny question of 'neutrality' of technology not being broached directly. That science is somehow a declasse activity, apart and away from class struggle, is rightly laughed out of court. I have to admit its a good read, even if I find much to disagree with.

Returning to style, like most situationist texts this has the usual excess baggage of empty high-flown rhetoric, sub-Marxist appeals to history, and enough meaningless garbage to gladden the heart of Enver Hoxha, the Albanian State helmsman. Every so often you come across appeals to some mythical proletariat seemingly in communion with situationism in tact. I use the word myth deliberately. Somehow the myth has arisen that if the rioting in Brixton in 1981 had spilled into the start of the working week, workers and rioters would have joined hands in battle. Pure bollocks written by people who weren't involved and probably don't even know the area. And of course we return to the myth that social-democracy, Bolshevism and anarcho-syndicalism are essentially the same. More bollocks of course.

So, ignore the crap if you can, some of the ideas are useful, and there's some good stories tucked away in these pages. As I said before, pleading ignorance is no excuse.

Guy DeBored.

LETTER

Dear Comrades,

Just a short note on telephone tapping. After reading the letter in *Black Flag* (3.12.'85) on phone tapping, I tried this method on several phones. Three of these phones could not even get through to the 'start test'. . . – all that was heard was the tone that means that the number being rung is unobtainable (and all these phones were in London). Two of these phones were in houses that were very likely to be tapped, so 'number unobtainable' probably means that your phone is being tapped. Just to remind readers, the method (in London anyway) is to ring 175 followed by the last four numbers of your phone and listen for the 'start test, start test. . .'. This is a method used by telephone engineers to test a phone. Anyway, I hope this has not encouraged the spread of fear and paranoia too much – don't worry the State is always after us! Take care and enjoy yourselves (Tottenham was only the start!). . .

B. Rick.

LATE NEWS

FRANCE

OTAGES – HOSTAGES

On the 15th of November 1985 the Douai Appeal Court sentenced Yves Deschamps and Thierry Destriez, who are both editors of the journal *Otages* [1], to fifteen months in prison with the possibility of being released after ten months. They will also be on parole for another five years for the 'harbouring of criminals' and 'complicity in the possession of weapons'.

This sentence is unfounded from a legal point of view. The fact of putting someone up has been transformed into 'harbouring criminals', and is criminalised as such without the Court having offered proof that Yves and Thierry were aware of the nature of the crimes of which the people they put up were accused. Worse still, the political and ethical motivations of giving someone a place to stay are confused with this knowledge. Considering what they have been accused of, this can only be taken as a question of sentencing on principle.

This is a very important sentencing. The Douai appeals court has dealt *Otages* a heavy blow, and the Crown has consistently displayed a bitter desire for vengeance against this very active group. As well, the bulletin *Defense Libre* has also been hauled into Court. Following the acquittal of Jean Pierre Mouille and the release of the two editors of the journal in the city of Lille, the prosecutions have come to a halt for the time being.

This sentencing is an attempt to eliminate the journal *Otages*, and to intimidate all those who, like us, refuse imprisonment, police activities and repression as an all-encompassing means of resolving social problems.

Using 'the fight against terrorism' as an excuse, the State is legitimising, amongst other activities:

- sentencing without proof (Yves and Thierry).
- shooting on sight (Jean-Pierre Mouille; assasination by explosives (*Greenpeace*); police 'dirty tricks'.
- the police inquisition against the defence (M.C. Etelin).
- compiling lists of militants who intervene publicly in different areas: jails, immigration, anti-nuclear. .. (round-ups, searching premises, infiltrations).
- the use of isolation, censorship and beating prisoners who put up a fight.

The State is therefore attempting to limit freedoms and to normalise its own violence. It is urgent to react collectively to counteract this threat, and to preserve spaces in which we are free to live and fight back.

The Otages Collective, Outlaws, Collectif Enfer du Nord, Comite de resistance Anti-fasciste et Anti-raciste (Lille), the radio programme 'Parloir Libre' Paris, Groupe Anarchiste de Lille (Federation Anarchiste), the journal Camouflage, L'Entraide etc.. .

1. A prisoners' support journal – Otages means hostages in English.

Translated from L'Entraide No. 8 by M.W.

Support letters can be sent to:
Otages, BP 37,
59651 Villeneuve - D'ASCQ Cedex
FRANCE.

ANARCHIST MYTHS EXPOSED:

The little gem below was spotted in the *New Statesman's* 'Christmas How's Your Street-Cred? Quiz.' The 'correct' answer, worth no less than 3 points, is 'C'!
So now you know. . . .

Complete the following sentences:

15) Sara Keays is a) a rat b) a successful small businesswoman c) an oppressed sister.
16) Anarchists are a) sinister figures with bombs under their coats b) poseurs in black c) unreliable.